

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 04256 081335Z

64

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05

/070 W

----- 090189

R 081151Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9675

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

DIA WASHDC

COMUSSAG NKP THAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 4256

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, MILI, CB

SUBJ: FEBRUARY CASUALTIES DECREASE BUT REMAIN HIGH

REF: PHNOM PENH 2355

1. SUMMARY. BOTH SIDES TOGETHER SUFFERED 12,500 CASUALTIES IN THE MONTH OF FEB., HALF THE 25,000-MAN COMBINED LOSSES FOR JANUARY (REFTEL). THE KC LOST AN ESTIMATED 1,900 KILLED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND HAD A PROJECTED 4,500 MEN WOUNDED. FANK REPORTS 900 KILLED, 500 MISSING AND 4,800 WOUNDED (MANY NOT SERIOUSLY) DURING FEB. A MEASURE OF THE INTENSITY OF COMBAT TO DATE AND OF FANK OFFICERS' FRONT-LINE LEADERSHIP IS THAT GOVERNMENT FORCES HAVE LOST AN ARMORED PERSONNEL SQUADRON COMMANDER, SEVEN BATTALION COMMANDERS, ONE BRIGADE COMMANDER, ONE PROVINCE GOVERNOR (A COLONEL) AND ONE GENERAL OFFICER (TRAINING CENTER COMMANDER) KILLED. THREE BRIGADE COMMANDERS, TWO BATTALION COMMANDERS AND A DIVISION COMMANDING GENERAL HAVE BEEN WOUNDED. INCORPORATION OF NEW RECRUITS JUMPED TO 3,500 IN FEB. AND, ASSUMING HALF OF FANK'S WOUNDED RETURN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PHNOM 04256 081335Z

TO DUTY IN TWO OR THREE WEEKS, THEN RECRUITING AND TRANSFERS

TO FRONTLINE UNITS FROM MILITARY OFFICES HAVE KEPT PACE WITH FANK'S COMBAT LOSSES. REPORTED DESERTIONS, HOWEVER, COST FANK AT LEAST AN EXTRA 3,500 MEN IN JAN. AND FEB. END SUMMARY.

2. THE KC LOST AN ESTIMATED 1,600 MEN IN THE PRIMARY AREA OF THEIR OFFENSIVE (PHNOM PENH, POCHENTONG, ROUTE 4 AND THE MEKONG) AND ANOTHER 300 ELSEWHERE IN CAMBODIA, PRIMARILY SIEM REAP, KAMPOT AND KOMPONG THOM. ON THE BASIS OF THIS ESTIMATE WE PROJECT AN ADDITIONAL 4,500 KC WOUNDED. MAJOR KC LOSSES CAME IN THE BANAM/NEAK LUONG AREA ON THE MEKONG AND WEST AND SOUTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH. ADDING THESE LOSSES TO FIGURES FOR JA. GIVES, CONSERVATIVELY, 6,200 KC KILLED AND A PROJECTED 15,500 WOUNDED SINCE THEY LAUNCHED THE DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE JAN. 1. THE KC APPEAR ABLE TO MAKE THESE LOSSES GOOD THROUGH THEIR OWN CONSCRIPTION AND TRAINING.

3. FANK REPORTS NEARLY 900 MEN KILLED AND OVER 500 MISSING IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY. ANOTHER 4,800 SOLDIERS WERE WOUNDED. FANK TOOK HEAVY LOSSES WHEN THE KC OVERRAN FOUR BATTALIONS IN ACTIONS ALONG THE MEKONG. THE SEVENTH DIVISION AND FIFTH BRIGADE NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH ON ROUTE 5 CONTINUED TO TAKE CASUALTIES AND THE KC DIRECTED INCREASINGLY STRONGER ATTACKS AGAINST THE THIRD DIVISION SOUTHWEST OF THE CAPITAL. SINCE NEW YEAR'S DAY FANK HAS SUFFERED 3,800 KILLED OR MISSING AND 11,700 WOUNDED. COMMENT: FANK/CINC LTG SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ IN A RECENT MEETING PROVIDED A FIGURE FOR CASUALTIES FOR THE FIRST THREE WEEKS OF FEBRUARY WHICH, IF EXTRAPOLATED TO COVER THE ENTIRE MONTH, WOULD BRING THE TOTAL FANK KILLED IN ACTION FIGURE FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY TO ABOUT 4,500. FANK CASUALTY FIGURES, UPON WHICH OUR OWN ESTIMATES ARE BASED, COUPLED WITH PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS OF DEFENSE ATTACHE PERSONNEL, ARE OF DOUBTFUL ACCURACY AT BEST, AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE TOTAL KILLED AND MISSING FOR THE PERIOD MAY APPROACH 4,500 MEN.

4. FANK HAS HAD GOOD SUCCESS REPLACING ITS COMBAT LOSSES, BUT DESERTIONS HAVE CREATED A NET LOSS OF FRONT-LINE MANPOWER. THE RECRUITMENT AND INCORPORATION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PHNOM 04256 081335Z

CENTER SET 3,500 MEN TO TRAINING CENTERS DURING THE MONTH, ABOUT HALF WERE RECRUITED THROUGH THE CAPITAL'S CITY GOVERNMENT. FANK ORDERED 3,300 NEWLY-TRAINED RECRUITS TO UNITS. THESE RECRUITS GENERALLY AVERAGED THREE OUT OF A PROGRAMMED SIX-WEEK TRAINING COURSE. THE GENERAL STAFF'S EFFORT TO TRANSFER MEN FROM OFFICES TO FRONT-LINE UNITS NETTED 1,800 MEN IN FEBRUARY; THIS EFFORT HAS SO FAR REACHED 2,700 OF A TARGETED 10,000

OFFICE SOLDIERS. REPORTED FEBRUARY DESERTIONS, HOWEVER, COST FANK AN EXTRA 1,700 MEN. ALTHOUGH FIGURES FOR DESERTIONS ARE NOT COMPLETELY RELIABLE, WE BELIEVE THAT AT LEAST 3,500 MEN HAVE DESERTED SINCE JAN. 1. AN ANALYSIS OF LOSSES AND ACCESSIONS SUGGESTS THAT, ASSUMING HALF THE WOUNDED RETURN TO THEIR UNITS WITHIN A MONTH, RECRUITING, AIDED BY TRANSFERS FROM OFFICES, IS COVERING COMBAT LOSSES. DESERTIONS, HOWEVER, HAVE CREATED A NET LOSS OF COMBAT POWER, SINCE THEY AFFECT CHIEFLY THE HARD-FIGHTING INTERVENTION UNITS.

5. CASUALTIES AMONG COMMANDERS GIVES SOME MEASURE OF COMBAT INTENSITY AND FANK OFFICERS' FRONTLINE LEADERSHIP. SINCE JAN. 1 FANK OFFICERS KILLED INCLUDE SEVEN BATTALION COMMANDERS, ONE ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER SQUADRON COMMANDER, ONE BRIGADE COMMANDER, ONE PROVINCE GOVERNOR (A COLONEL LEADING TROOPS) AND ONE GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING A TRAINING CENTER (AMBUSHED). WOUNDED ARE TWO BATTALION COMMANDERS, THREE BRIGADE COMMANDERS (ONE OF WHOM HAS BEEN WOUNDED THREE TIMES THIS YEAR), AND A DIVISION COMMANDING GENERAL.
DEAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CASUALTIES, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PHNOM04256
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750082-0536
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750369/aaaackot.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PHNOM PENH 2355
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FEBRUARY CASUALTIES DECREASE BUT REMAIN HIGH
TAGS: MOPS, MILI, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006